

Minutes for June 26, 2025 Wikipedia Women in Religion Monthly Business Meeting

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Attendees: CM, WW, JP, HWS, CH

Quick recap

The group discussed various personal and professional updates, and the progress on Volume 5 of the WiR series, the AAR/SBL Women's Caucus history project. They addressed the logistics of managing meeting minutes, deciding to rotate the responsibility among members to improve participation and efficiency. The team also covered ongoing projects, including the challenges of working on two volumes simultaneously, the AI project's postponement, and upcoming conference preparations.

Next steps

- CM: Write chapters on selected women's caucus figures for Volume 5
- WW: Submit a one-page outline by August/September detailing research plan, theme connection, and notability for Emily Culpepper biography
- All presenters: Begin working on WCNA conference presentations by September
- HWS: Contact RH for the June meeting summary and transcript and use them to prepare meeting minutes
- CH: Present at the next editing session about how to handle meeting transcripts and minutes
- CH: Send WW the call for papers for Volume 5 and the source document
- CM: Send out notice for the next editing work session on July 14th
- CM: Ask for a volunteer to take meeting notes at the next meeting in July
- CM: Purchase Broadway show tickets for WCNA conference when financially feasible

Summary

Women's Caucus History Volume 5

CH discussed with CM the need for contributors to Volume 5 of a project on the history of the AAR/SBL Women's Caucus, suggesting several potential subjects including Lorine M. Getz, Veena Howard, Cynthia Eller, and Barbara Andolson. CM agreed to write two chapters, with CH emphasizing the importance of interviewing early members like Judith Plaskow for historical depth. JP offered to assist CM by providing information about some potential subjects and shared a link: <https://www.cynthiaeller.com/>.

Editing Session and Volume 4 Deadline

The group discussed their upcoming editing session scheduled for July 14th, which will be held shortly before the July 31st deadline for chapter revisions for Volume 4. CM mentioned that the previous editing session on June 9th was productive, with a larger than usual group participation. CH expressed her intention to attend the next session to address any questions from the group.

African Circle Rapid Grant Updates

CM shared her experience with the Rapid Grant African Circle meetings, which occur weekly at 7 pm EAT/11 am CT, with participants showing impressive dedication. The Kenyan group's successful \$5,000 grant has already led to the establishment of a hub at the University of Nairobi, with tables, a computer, and support from a librarian.

Meeting Minutes Editing Process

The group discussed the process of recording and editing meeting minutes, with HWS explaining that she had been taking notes and creating minutes for quite a while and that last month CH proposed that the group create the minutes from the Zoom transcript and AI summary. HWS debuted that with the June 2025 minutes and will do it for the current meeting. CM suggested sharing the responsibility of editing the minutes, and CH proposed discussing the process at the next editing session. The group debated whether to use full transcripts or condensed notes, with HWS explaining that she converts the names of participants to initials in keeping with the group's earlier decision to do so when they began posting the minutes on the https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Women_in_Religion_User_Group project page, and typically edits out personal or sensitive comments while maintaining a record of the meeting's substance.

Meeting Minutes Rotation Plan

The group discussed challenges and solutions for taking meeting minutes. CM agreed to ask for a volunteer at the next meeting to take notes from the transcript or summary, as she cannot multitask effectively. The group aligned on rotating the responsibility of taking minutes to ensure fair distribution among members, with the hope that this approach would increase participation and efficiency.

Volume Management and Citation Requirements

The team discussed challenges with managing two volumes simultaneously, with CH expressing that having two such projects at once was too much work. They agreed to have a conversation about documentation/citation requirements before starting Volume Six, with HWS and CH emphasizing that citations are mandatory and must include both primary and secondary sources. Authors cannot rely solely on interviews with their subjects. While it is good to get that kind of primary source material on the record, it cannot be the only basis for a chapter. The two of them have been doing research and then sharing sources with the authors that they might cite in support of the assertions they made about their subjects in their chapters. CM shared her experience learning about the need for time stamps in documentary citations, which she had initially overlooked but was able to complete due to having a transcript. CH mentioned the Volume 5 call for papers that was issued in February and promised to resend it to WW. She also committed to sending WW a document containing sources for the women featured as potential subjects for chapters of the book, which she and HWS had compiled during their research. WW was asked to prepare a one-page outline by early September, detailing her approach, connections to the volume's theme, and planned research for her assigned subject.

AI Project and Conference Planning

The team discussed tabling the AI project due to ongoing work on the volume and JO's upcoming presentation at a conference in New York. They also talked about the WCNA conference, noting that proposal deadlines have been extended to the end of July and hotel accommodations are typically arranged last minute. CM mentioned she hasn't purchased Broadway tickets yet, but CH assured her tickets would be available and suggested checking TKTS for potentially cheaper options. The next meeting was scheduled for July 24th.